



*Congress on International Mexican Initiatives, Instruments  
and Standards on Social Responsibility*

## **THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES**

**“Unique features, unique accomplishments”**

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# UNIQUE FEATURES

- **Voluntary recommendations to MNEs in all major areas of business ethics**
- **Adopted in 1976, major revision in 2000**
- **Based on universally shared values , principles and norms**
- **Applicable worldwide**
- **41 adhering countries (30 OECD countries, 11 non-OECD countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Peru, Slovenia and Romania) and other countries have applied**
- **The most comprehensive government-backed code of conduct for enterprises with multi-stakeholder involvement**
- **Binding commitments to adhering governments (follow up mechanisms via National Contact Points)**

# What is Responsible Business Conduct ?

Under the OECD Guidelines, RBC means:

- **Obeying the law even if poorly implemented**
- **Contributing to economic, social and environmental progress and help achieve sustainable development through any other means consistent with the law**

# AREAS COVERED

- **General policies:**
  - **Contribute to economic, social and environmental progress**
  - **Respect human rights**
  - **Encourage local capacity building and human capital formation**
  - **Refrain from seeking exemptions (e.g. in the areas of environment, labour, safety)**
  - **Apply good corporate governance practices**
  - **Encourage suppliers to practice good corporate conduct**
  - **Develop practices to establish trust with the societies in which they operate**



## AREAS COVERED (continued)

- **Disclosure of information regarding activities, structure, financial situation and performance**
- **Employment and industrial relations**
- **Environment**
- **Combating bribery**
- **Consumer interests**
- **Science and technology**
- **Competition**
- **Taxation**

## **CHAPTER IV. EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

- **Promotes the effective abolition of child and forced labour, non-discrimination, the right to employee representation, and the protection of health and safety of workers;**
- **Reasonable notice to labour in case of massive lay-off or dismissals;**
- **Asks companies not to threaten to transfer activities from the country concerned to other countries in order to influence those negotiations unfairly;**
- **Refrain from seeking or accepting exemptions to labour regulatory standards.**

# HOW THE GUIDELINES ARE IMPLEMENTED

- **Adhering governments obligated to establish National Contact Points (NCPs)**
- **Responsible for promoting observance of the Guidelines and facilitate resolution of “specific instances” of corporate conduct**
- **“Specific Instances” allow interested parties to bring alleged non-observance of the Guidelines to the attention of NCPs**



## THE RESULTS TO DATE

- **The Guidelines have established a solid international presence**
- **Used by forty-one per cent of Fortune Global 500 companies**
- **Translated into 25 languages (including Arabic)**
- **29 countries promote the Guidelines in their export credit and investment guarantee programmes**
- **More than 130 “specific instances” have been considered since 2000, the majority in the area of employment and industrial relations**



# THE WAY FORWARD

- **More extensive use of the OECD Guidelines as Benchmark**
- **Improvement of NCP Performance**
- **Synergies with other instruments and initiatives**



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Please visit:**

- [www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines](http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/guidelines)
- [www.oecd.org/daf/investment/pfi](http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/pfi)

**Thank you!**